



WIRELESS EBT PROJECT June 2022 Newsletter



From the Editor – Tracy Penick

Month	EBT Transactions	Debit/Credit Transactions	Total Transactions	EBT Sales	Debit/Credit Sales	Total Sales
January	33	414	447	\$3,171.61	\$28,594.50	\$31,766.11
February	30	568	598	\$2,761.92	\$35,310.36	\$38,072.28
March	47	582	629	\$4,271.96	\$28,397.82	\$32,669.78
April	35	3,267	3,302	\$2,963.71	\$205,082.84	\$208,046.55
May	121	15,745	15,866	\$3,901.99	\$910,587.38	\$914,489.37
Total for Year	266	20,576	20,842	\$17,071.19	\$1,207,972.90	\$1,225,044.09

May 2022 Facts:

Total sales for May, \$914,489.37, is the highest sales for a month since the beginning of The Wireless EBT Project back in 2005. Truly amazing! It is hard to believe that this project is in its 18th year and continues to provide an easy way for Iowa's EBT families to purchase fresh locally grown food at their local farmers markets.

Total sales for May this year were higher than May 2021 (\$914,489.37 compared to \$722,068.33). The number of EBT transactions were lower in 2022 than in 2021 (121 compared to 255). For May 2022, there were a total of 15,866 wireless transactions compared to 14,552 in 2021.

In May 2022, there were 140,311 SNAP/EBT families in Iowa. \$39,442,782 in benefits were issued in May to these families.

Visiting Farmers Markets

I had the opportunity to visit the Capitol Complex farmer market on Tuesday, June 14th. This is a small market but very valuable for all the capitol complex staff that can shop during their lunch hour.



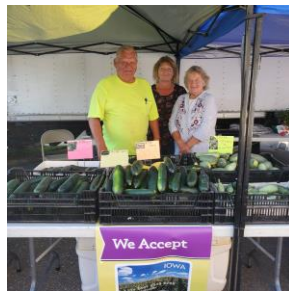
Madeline McClure
Berries and More

On Friday, June 17th I headed to the Toledo Farmers Market. I always enjoy visiting this market.



Jamie & Ryan Madison
Mad Acre Farms

On Saturday, June 18th my first stop was at the Cedar Rapids Downtown Farmers Market. This is a very large farmers market that is spread out over several blocks in downtown Cedar Rapids.



Ray, Pam & Joy Musil
Musil Gardens

My next stop was to the Grinnell Farmers Market. This was a nice market in a beautiful park with several vendors.



Keith & Nancy Weise
Circle W Acres

My final stop was to visit the Prairie Produce farmstand in Grinnell. Very nice farmstand and loved seeing the sign posted as soon as you walk in.



Roger Van Donselaar
Prairie Produce

It was great to see everyone, and thanks for having the new signage posted so Iowa's EBT families can find you.

Iowa's Farmers Market brochure

Just a reminder that it is very important that you let me know if you change which farmers markets that you are attending. We want to keep this brochure as accurate as possible so Iowa's EBT families know where you are so they can shop and spend their EBT benefits.

The link below is where the brochure is posted. Please look it over to assure that all your information is correct and up to date.

<https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/Comm284.pdf?062020221530>

New posters for the DHS county offices

The new posters have been mailed to the county DHS offices. On the posters are listed all the farmers markets and roadside stands in their area that have farmers that can accept EBT. This is one of the ways that DHS promotes what markets you are attending to the Iowa SNAP families.



Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Some of the farmers that participate in the Wireless EBT Project offer CSAs to their clients. The below information only pertains to clients that are using their EBT benefits for CSAs.

- For SNAP recipients – payment may be accepted no more than 14 days in advance of product delivery.
- SNAP (EBT) benefits may not be used to pay any administrative or membership fees associated with operating a CSA.

USDA reauthorization

Just a reminder that you must reauthorize every 5 years with the USDA to accept EBT. If you receive a reauthorization letter from the USDA, please complete and return it promptly. If you don't complete the paperwork timely, you will lose your EBT authorization and will have to reapply and complete the application to come back into the program.

We have had several farmers lose their EBT authorization because they did not return the required paperwork back to the USDA.

Just a reminder that you must be authorized by the USDA to accept EBT to participate in The Wireless EBT Project.

Update information with the USDA

Just a reminder that it is extremely important to report any changes to the USDA. The USDA is who authorized you to accept EBT. If you have a name change or an address change it needs to be reported so that your authorization is up to date. If you have a change, please call 312-353-6609 to report the change.

Changes to your contact information?

It is very important that DHS has your current email address and your correct phone numbers. I send out a lot of important information and if DHS does not have your current information, you could be missing out on important information. Please make sure that if you change your email address or drop or pick up a new phone number that you share that information with me.

Paper for your wireless machine

Just a reminder that DHS supplies the paper rolls for your wireless machines. It is imperative that you use thermal paper, or it could ruin your machine. Please do not use any other type of paper in your wireless machine other than the paper that DHS supplies. If you are running low on paper, please contact Jan at 515-971-1076.

Reminders:

1. Remember that you cannot ring up a sale for another vendor. You could lose your SNAP (EBT) certification and be terminated from the Wireless EBT Project.
2. Since you are paying for the commercial transaction fees, be sure to keep track of what you are paying so you can use those expenses as a tax deduction.
3. You cannot set a minimum purchase amount. If an EBT household wishes to purchase \$.50 in onions, you do need to process the transaction. Same for any debit or credit transactions.
4. Hot foods and hot drinks (cocoa, coffee, and tea) cannot be purchased with SNAP EBT benefits.
5. If you experience technical issues with your PAX A920 machine, please call GoEBT at 1-877-418-7957. If you can't get the problem solved, please call Tracy.

Help Desk

We are here to help you!

When you have questions about:

- **Participating in the Wireless EBT Project? Call Tracy Penick at 515-491-6325.**
- **What you can sell to EBT customers, or being authorized to accept EBT? Call USDA/FNS at 877-823-4369.**
- **SNAP eligibility? Call Kari Lind at 515-281-7000.**
- **Supplies – call Jan Walters at 515-971-1076.**